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Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

b3 per DIA

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

ATTN: El Salvador

HT

101-12-226-1094

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BT

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

2037

[REDACTED] (AS OF: 1905 EST 30 OCT 79)

SUBJ: DIA DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE (DIN) (U)

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b3 per DIA

~~EL SALVADOR: VIOLENCE INCREASES.~~ (U)

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1. ~~(S)~~ [REDACTED] US EMBASSY; SAN SALVADOR, REPORTED IT HAD BEEN ATTACKED AT ABOUT 1400 LOCAL TIME BY AN ESTIMATED 150-200 MEMBERS OF THE ~~LEFTIST POPULAR LEAGUE~~ *El Salvador* 28 FEBRUARY (LP-28). PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE THE ATTACKERS MAINTAINED STEADY SMALL-ARMS FIRE INTO THE CHANCERY AND EXPLODED HAND MADE TEAR GAS DEVICES AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO ENTER THE GROUNDS. THE ATTACK WAS REPULSED

BY US MARINE GUARDS USING TEAR GAS. NO DEATHS WERE REPORTED, BUT TWO MARINES SUFFERED MINOR INJURIES.T

2. ~~(X)~~ [] AS OF 1430 LOCAL, THE SITUATION WAS REPORTEDLY^{b3} per DIA UNDER CONTROL, AND SALVADORAN NATIONAL GUARDSMEN WERE PROVIDING PROTECTION WITH ARMORED CARS AND ARMED PERSONNEL. THIS ATTACK WAS THE 10TH TIME SINCE MID-JULY THAT LEFTIST GROUPS HAVE GENERATED INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE US EMBASSY BUT THE 1ST TIME IT HAS BEEN ATTACKED. SIMILAR ATTACKS MAY BE IN THE OFFING SINCE THE EXTREME LEFT HAS LONG VIEWED THE EMBASSY AS BOTH A SYMBOL OF US INVOLVEMENT IN EL SALVADOR AND AS A TARGET FOR VENTING ANTIGOVERNMENT AND ANTI-US FEELINGS.

3. ~~(X)~~ [] MEANWHILE, VIOLENCE THAT BEGAN ON THE WEEKEND OF THE 27TH AND 28TH HAS CONTINUED. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS DEATHS AND INJURIES, AND JUNTA EFFORTS TO RESTORE ORDER TO THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN THREATENED.

4. ~~(X)~~ [] WEEKEND VIOLENCE INCLUDED THE BOMBINGS OF THE BANK OF AMERICA IN SAN SALVADOR AND THE PRINCIPAL OFFICES OF EL SALVADOR'S LARGEST NEWSPAPERS. NO DEATHS WERE REPORTED; HOWEVER, THERE WERE INJURIES AND DAMAGE WAS EXTENSIVE. NONETHELESS, THE PAPERS -- BOTH ARE CONSIDERED CONSERVATIVE AND PROGOVERNMENT -- WILL

CONTINUE TO PUBLISH. THE ~~POPULAR LIBERATION FORCES (PL)~~ CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE BANK BOMBING AND THE ~~PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP)~~ ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE EXPLOSIONS. ADDITIONAL LEFTIST TERRORIST ACTIVITY OVER THE WEEKEND INCLUDED THE ASSASSINATIONS OF THE FORMER CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THE DEPUTY MANAGER OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK. El Salvador

5. (U) THESE INCIDENTS SET THE STAGE FOR MORE SERIOUS TROUBLE ON 29 OCTOBER, WHEN MEMBERS OF THE LEFTIST POPULAR LEAGUE-28 FEBRUARY (LP-28) CLASHED WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES. TROUBLE STARTED AS THE DEMONSTRATORS MARCHED TOWARD THE OFFICES OF ONE OF THE NEWSPAPERS BOMBED ON THE 28TH. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE SHOOTING ERUPTED BETWEEN DEMONSTRATORS AND SECURITY GUARDS AT THE NATIONAL PALACE, MAYOR'S OFFICE, AND THE CENTRAL RESERVE BANK, SHOOTING WAS ALSO SAID TO HAVE OCCURRED AT THE NEWSPAPER OFFICES. DURING THE MELEE, THE LEFTISTS BURNED PARKED VEHICLES AND SET UP FLIMSY BARRICADES. LATER, SECURITY FORCES -- PROBABLY THE NATIONAL GUARD -- REINFORCED WITH ARMORED VEHICLES, ARRIVED ON THE SCENE. THE GUN BATTLE RAGED THROUGH DOWNTOWN SAN SALVADOR UNTIL DUSK ON THE 29TH, REPORTEDLY LEAVING AS MANY AS 25 DEAD AND MORE THAN 100

INWURED. IN ADDITION, AFTER SECURITY FORCES WITHDREW, LOOTERS APPARENTLY RANSACKED A FIVE-BLOCK SHOPPING AREA.

6. ~~X~~ [] ALSO ON THE 29TH, THE BPR REPORTEDLY RELEASED b3 per DIA 150 EMPLOYEES FROM THE MINISTRIES OF LABOR AND ECONOMY. THE BPR HOWEVER, STILL HOLDS THE MINISTERS AND CONTROLS THE BUILDINGS. THE OCCUPATION OF THE MINISTRIES HAS BECOME A TEST OF WILL BETWEEN THE JUNTA AND THE BPR. THE JUNTA -- WHICH IS DETERMINED NOT TO PROVOKE VIOLENCE -- HAS INSISTED ON THE RELEASE OF ALL HOSTAGES BEFORE NEGOTIATING WITH THE LEFTISTS OVER THEIR DEMANDS; THE BPR HAS INSISTED IN NEGOTIATING DEMANDS. THE SITUATION HAS PLACED THE JUNTA IN A DILEMMA. IT HAS DEVELOPED PLANS TO SEIZE THE BUILDINGS BY FORCE, BUT THESE WOULD PROBABLY RESULT IN BLOODSHED, CRITICISM, AND LOSS OF MUCH-NEEDED POPULAR SUPPORT. AS A RESULT, THE JUNTA HAD ADOPTED A WAIT-AND-SEE APPROACH. NEVERTHELESS, THE VIOLENCE MAY FORCE ITS HAND AND IT IS ALREADY UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM CONSERVATIVE AND EVEN SOME MODERATE ELEMENTS TO DISLODGE THE OCCUPANTS. THE ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY AND THE EVENTS OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS WILL FURTHER INCREASE THAT PRESSURE AND SERIOUSLY CHALLENGE THE WUNTA'S ABILITY TO REDUCE VIOLENCE WITHOUT RESORTING TO REPRESSIVE TACTICS.

PREPARED BY: []

b3 per DIA

(REVW 30 OCT 99)

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